

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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SUBJ: ROK FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON ROK-US RELATIONS

FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL MOFA TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF STATEMENT
GIVEN TO ROK PRESS DECEMBER 28 AT 10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME AND
EMBARGOED UNTIL 1200 LOCAL TIME. TRANSLATION IS ALSO BEING
PROVIDED TO FOREIGN PRESS BY MOFA:

BEGIN QUOTE:

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONCERNING THE
PROBLEMS PENDING BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE UNITED
STATES, 28 DECEMBER 1976

1. LATELY, THERE HAVE BEEN A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES CONCERNED OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND
THE UNITED STATES IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE CERTAIN DISTURBING
SITUATION ARISING FROM A CASE INVOLVING TONG-SUN PARK WHICH
BECAME THE SUBJECT OF FREQUENT PRESS REPORTS IN THE UNITED STATES
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SINCE THE LATTER PART OF OCTOBER 1976, OFTEN LINKING THE KOREAN
GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES WITH THE CASE RELYING ON GROUNDLESS
ALLEGATIONS AND DISTORTED FACTS. ALTHOUGH SOME DIFFERENT POINTS OF
VIEW HAVE EMERGED IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS, BOTH SIDES,
IN THE REALIZATION THAT UNDUE PROLONGATION OF THE SITUATION
WOULD NOT SERVE THE LONG-TERM COMMON INTERESTS OF THE REPUBLIC

OF KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES, HAVE MADE CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO AMICABLY SETTLE THE PROBLEMS SO AS NOT TO GENERATE ANY ADVERSE EFFECT UPON THE TRADITIONAL BOND OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. AS REGARDS THE SO-CALLED TONG-SUN PARK'S CASE, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS, AS IT HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE CLEAR, THAT MR. PARK, A KOREAN BUSINESSMAN RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES FOR A LONG TIME, HAD NO CONNECTION WITH THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT AND THAT, IF THERE WAS ANY VIOLATION OF THE UNITED STATES LAWS ON THE PART OF MR. PARK AS ALLEGED IN THE AMERICAN PRESS REPORTS, THE MATTER SHOULD BE DEALT WITH ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

ANOTHER PROBLEM AROSE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WHEN A KOREAN DIPLOMAT NAMED KIM SANG-KEUN, ASSIGNED TO THE KOREAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, D.C., SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED AFTER HAVING BEEN REASSIGNED TO A POST IN SEOUL AND REPORTING TO THE HOME OFFICE THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO KOREA BY THE END OF NOVEMBER 1976. LATER, IT WAS LEARNED THAT MR. KIM HAD BEEN UNDULY PLACED UNDER THE "CUSTODY" OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AFTER ALLEGEDLY HAVING REQUESTED THE PERMISSION TO RESIDE IN THE UNITED STATES. THEREUPON, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTED TO PROMPTLY LET ITS AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES INTERVIEW MR. KIM IN A FREE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING MR. KIM'S MOTIVATION AND INTENTION. BUT, REGRETFULLY SUCH AN INTERVIEW HAS NOT BEEN REALIZED YET DUE TO SOME DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THE PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE MATTER.

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AS FOR THE MATTER OF ALLEGED EAVESDROPPING OF CHONG WA DAE, THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, BY CERTAIN UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES AS HAS BEEN REPORTED IN SOME UNITED STATES PRESS, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS MADE FIRM REQUESTS TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PUBLICLY CLARIFY ITS POSITION IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE MATTER WHICH, IF FOUND TO BE TRUE, WOULD CONSTITUTE AN ACT GROSSLY INFRINGING UPON THE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS NOT MADE ITS DENIAL OF THE ALLEGATION IN PUBLIC AS WAS REQUESTED BY THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT ON THE GROUND THAT IT IS A LONG STANDING PRACTICE FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOT TO MAKE PUBLIC COMMENT ON SUCH ALLEGATION DEALING WITH INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, THE REPORTED EAVESDROPPING OF CHONG WA DAE IS NOW FOUND TO BE GROUNDLESS AS A RESULT OF THE REPEATED AND POSITIVE CLARIFICATIONS MADE BY HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNEL.

3. THOUGH IT IS DEEPLY REGRETTABLE THAT THESE UNEXPECTED INCIDENTS HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT THE AIR OF OPEN DISCORD EVEN FOR A BRIEF PERIOD BETWEEN THE TWO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, IN THE COURSE OF RECENT DISCUSSIONS, HAS REAFFIRMED THE FRIENDLY TIES TRADITIONALLY EXISTING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS WELL AS ITS UNCHANGED SECURITY COMMITMENTS TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA DESPITE THE OCCURRENCES OF THESE PROBLEMS. THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO BEEN ASSURED OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO CONTINUOUSLY MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN CLOSE, FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IN VARIOUS FIELDS SUCH AS DIPLOMATIC, MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL. IN THIS REGARD, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT FULLY SHARES THE VIEW WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CLOSELY COOPERATE WITH EACH OTHER IN FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE BOND OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. END QUOTE.
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